

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00
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R 051630Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6388
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
COMMANDANT NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE //NWIS//

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ALGIERS 1127

LIMDIS

NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE FOR PROFESSOR MALONE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, US, AG, SS, EX, CG, FR
SUBJECT: BOUMEDIENE REVIEWS ALGERIAN POSITIONS WITH NATIONAL
WAR COLLEGE

1. IN ONE HOUR 45 MINUTE SESSION WITH NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE, CHARGE, AND POLOFFICER 3 MAY PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE MADE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON CURRENT INTERNATIONAL ISSUES:
 2. MIDDLE EAST: BOUMEDIENE REITERATED STANDARD GOA LINE THAT ALGERIA WILL ACCEPT ANY AGREEMENT REACHED BY SYRIA, EGYPT, AND PLO. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON US ROLE IN MIDDLE EAST HE COMMENTED THAT PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST DEPENDS ON PRESIDENT CARTER AND HOW MUCH PRESSURE HE IS WILLING TO PUT ON ISRAEL; "IT IS UP TO YOU." HE NOTED THAT AT PRESENT TIME US HAS MANY "TRUMPS"
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IN THAT REGION: GOOD RELATIONS WITH EGYPT, "NOT BAD" RELATIONS WITH SYRIA, AND PRESIDENT CARTER'S REFERENCE TO PLO "HOMELAND." IF US DOES NOT TAKE CURRENT OPPORTUNITY, HE SAID, AND ACHIEVE PEACE IN 1977 OR 1978, IT WILL BE "LAST CHANCE." HE COMMENTED THAT "ARAB WORLD IS LIKE A MOVING SAND DUNE", IMPLYING THAT THE LINE-UP OF CURRENTLY FAVORABLE FACTORS WILL

HAVE CHANGED BY END OF 1978. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON SOVIET ROLE IN MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT, HE RESPONDED THAT WHILE IT UP TO US TO REACH AGREEMENT, HE WILL NEED COOPERATION OF SOVIETS TO MAKE ACCORD WORK.

3. AFRICA: BOUMEDIENE STRESSED THAT ALGERIA WAS DISTURBED BY PROSPECTS IN AFRICA, STATING THAT HE FEARED "TWO GREAT ELEPHANTS WILL CLASH IN AFRICA AND TRAMPLE AFRICAN COUNTRIES UNDER FOOT". HE FOUND CURRENT SITUATION IN ETHIOPIA "DISTURBING" BECAUSE ALGERIA DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SHOULD BE ALIGNED: "NON-ALIGNMENT IS THE ONLY ANSWER." HE ASSERTED THAT PROBLEMS OF NAMIBIA AND RHODESIA WERE ALREADY SOLVED AND THAT ONLY QUESTION REMAINING IS WHO WILL TAKE POWER THERE. ALTHOUGH HE DEVOTED LITTLE TIME TO TOPIC, HE ASSERTED THAT STRENGTH OF RACISM MAKES SOUTH AFRICAN

PROBLEM MOST DANGEROUS QUESTION ON CONTINENT.

4. ZAIRE: IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON ZAIRE, BOUMEDIENE REPEATED HISTORY OF KATANGAN GENDARMERIE, NOTING THAT THEY WERE "OVERARMED" AS A RESULT OF THEIR SERVICE TO TSHOMBE, LINKS WITH PORTUGUESE, AND WORK FOR MPLA, AND COMMENTING THAT WHEN THEY ENTERED KATANGA THEY FOUND NO RESISTANCE BUT INSTEAD WERE WELCOMED. HE SAID THAT US WOULD FIND NO CUBANS OR RUSSIANS WITH KATANGANS. AS FOR ALGERIA, HE SAID, ALGERIA HAS TRADITIONALLY SUPPORTED ZAIRE, NOTING THAT AFTER ALL TSHOMBE DIED
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IN ALGERIA." REITERATING THAT "WE HAVE NEVER WORKED AGAINST ZAIRE", HE COMMENTED THAT PROBLEM WITH ZAIRE WAS THAT IT WAS A "NON-COUNTRY LIKE MOST AFRICAN COUNTRIES"; TRIBAL CONCERNS WERE MORE IMPORTANT THAN NATIONAL CONCERNS. HE ADDED THAT ZAIRE'S ECONOMIC SITUATION VERY BAD AND REFERRED ONCE MORE TO ZAIRIAN DEBT OF \$30 MILLION TO ALGERIA FOR OIL PURCHASED DURING 1973 CRISIS.

5. HE NOTED THAT ALGERIA HAS CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, REMARKING THAT NETO, HOLDEN AND MACHEL ALL BEGAN THEIR TRAINING IN ALGERIA. NOW THAT NETO AND MACHEL AND OTHER LIBERATION MOVEMENTS HAVE ACHIEVED POWER IN AFRICA, HE SAID, ALGERIA WILL NEVER INTERVENE IN THEIR COUNTRIES. HE SAID THAT, FOR EXAMPLE, SOMETIMES ALGERIANS NOW AGREE WITH MACHEL AND NETO AND SOMETIMES THEY DISAGREE, BUT THEY NEVER INTERVENE. ONCE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS WHICH ALGERIA HAS SUPPORTED HAVE SUCCEEDED, HE SAID, ALGERIA LEAVES THEM ALONE.

6. BOUMEDIENE THEN NOTED WRYLY THAT "AS FOR OTHER SIDE" IN ZAIRE, EGYPTIAN, SUDANESE, MOROCCAN AND FRENCH INTERVENTION "SUGGESTS WEB OF STRATEGY THAT YOU BETTER EQUIPPED AND PLACED TO UNRAVEL THAN I AM."

7. REGIONAL ISSUES: IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION BOUMEDIENE CITED KEY REGIONAL ISSUES AS MIDDLE EAST SOLUTION , OIL, AND STATUS OF MEDITERRANEAN. HE SAID ALGERIA HAS NO PROBLEMS WITH TUNISIA, MALI, NIGER, OR LIBYA (BOUMEDIENE LOOKED SOMEWHAT PENSIVE WHEN HE MENTIONED LIBYA). AS FOR MOROCCO, HE SAID, MOROCCO HAD INTERNAL DIFFICULTIES BUT DESPITE WHAT GROUP HAD UNDOUBTEDLY BEEN TOLD, ALGERIA HAS NO AGGRESSIVE DESIGNS AGAINST MOROCCO. HE SAID, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT DURING TWO ATTEMPTED COUPS AGAINST HASSAN, ALGERIA HAD NOT MOVED. AS FAR AS ALGERIA IS CONCERNED, HE STRESSED, IT HAD
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NO PROBLEMS WITH MOROCCO. (HE DID NOT MENTION MAURITANIA.)

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INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 EB-03 NSCE-00 INR-05

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R 051630Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE 6389

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

COMMANDANT NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE //NWIS//

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ALGIERS 1127

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NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE FOR PROFESSOR MALONE

8. US-ALGERIAN RELATIONS: AFTER REFERENCE TO PROBLEMS WITH CHEMICO OVER LNGI AND FPC SLOWNESS, HE WENT ON TO REPEAT STANDARD LINE THAT THERE ARE NO PROBLEMS BETWEEN US AND ALGERIA. HE STATED THAT US-ALGERIAN RELATIONS ARE BASED ON MUTUAL INTERESTS AND NOT ON WORDS AND SPEECHES. HAVEING SIGNED TWENTY-FIVE YEAR NATURAL GAS CONTRACTS HE STRESSED THAT ALGERIA AND US WERE LAYING GROUND WORK FOR RELATIONS WHICH SHOULD STEADILY IMPROVE. HE NOTED THAT HE WAS OFTEN ASKED ABOUT THE SECURITY OF NATURAL GAS SUPPLY TO US FROM ALGERIA. HE RELATED HIS REPOSENSE TO FORMER EXIM BANK PRESIDENT HENRY KEARNS: "WHAT GUARANTEES IS US GIVING ALGERIA?" BOUMEDIENE WENT ON TO STRESS FAMILIAR THEME THAT ALGERIA IS GAMBLING MORE IN THIS RELATIONSHIP THAN IS US BECAUSE US HAS MONEY AND POWER TO SEEK OUT OTHER SOURCES OF SUPPLY, WHILE ONCE INSTALLATIONS BUILT ALGERIA HAS NO OTHER OPTIONS.
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9. CONCLUSION: BOUMEDIENE CONCLUDED DISCUSSION WITH STATEMENT THAT HE APPRECIATED OPPORTUNITY TO LAY OUT ALGERIAN VIEWS AND TO TRY TO EXPLAIN ALGERIAN TO AMERICAN MILITARY OFFICERS, SECTOR OF AMERICAN OPINION HE HAS NOT HAD OPPORTUNITY TO MEET BEFORE.

10. COMMENT: BOUMEDIENE DID NOT BREAK NEW GROUND IN EXPOSE, BUT HE DID REFINE SOME OF HIS PREVIOUS STATEMENTS. ALTHOUGH HIS COMMENTS ON RESPONSIBILITY OF US IN MIDDLE EAST, ON TIMING, AND ON SOVIET ROLE WERE PREDICTABLE, WE DO NOT RECALL HIM HAVING MADE THEM EXPLICITLY BEFORE. IT WOULD ALSO APPEAR THAT ALGERIA HAS PROGRESSED IN ITS THING ON ZAIRE ISSUE; WITH UNDER SECRETARY HABIB BOUMEDIENE REPEATED CASTRO GUARANTEE THAT NO CUBANS ARE WITH KATANGESE BUT WITH NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE HE ASSERTED IT AS HIS OWN PROPOSITION; HE WAS ALSO MORE CATEGORICAL ON ALGERIA'S NON-INTERVENTION IN AFFAIR. ALSO NOTABLE IN PRESENTATION WAS THAT BOUMEDIENE DID NOT ONCE MENTION SAHARA, POLISARIO, OR RASD, DESPITE SEVERAL OPPORTUNITIES TO DO SO.

11. ABOVE REPORT IS SUMMARY OF BOUMEDIENE COMMENTS ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, SUBJECT WHICH INTERESTED NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE GROUP AND EMBASSY. WE STRESS THAT BOUMEDIENE HIMSELF, HOWEVER, AND DIFFERENT INTERESTS, BEGINNING SESSION WITH HALF HOUR MONOLOGUE ON ALGERIAN INTERNAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REPEATEDLY RETURNING

TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THEMES DURING RESPONSES TO
QUESTIONS FROM WAR COLLEGE GROUP.LYNE

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